



By Alik Keplicz, AP
LANDSBERGIS: Lithuanian leader 'won't compromise,' colleague says.

Maestro directs Lithuania

Lithuania's President **Vytautas Landsbergis** (Vee-toe-tus *Londs-bear-gis*) mingles a wry wit with a deceptively pedantic style in the struggle to turn his Soviet republic into a genuinely independent nation.

So far Lithuania has won outpourings of respect — but still no recognition — from foreign countries.

Whatever happens, though, the bespectacled, mustachioed former musicologist speaks softly and wields his baton gently over a sometimes resistant Parliament at odds with the Soviet troops who have occupied the country since 1940.

That's in keeping with the background of the accomplished pianist, who taught and performed at the Lithuanian Conservatory of Music before ascending the national stage. Nicknamed "the clever fox," Landsbergis, 57, advises Lithuania's 3.6 million people, "There is no point

in resisting this force."

But Monday, Landsbergis kept up his struggle, accusing the Soviets of trying to divide his government by contacting Lithuanian Communist Party chief **Algirdas Brazauskas**. Landsbergis defeated Brazauskas in the presidential election, although Brazauskas has declared his party's independence from Moscow.

Landsbergis' background was downright genteel. An expert on 19th and early 20th century Lithuanian music, he wrote about Lithuanian composer **Mikalojus Ciurlionis** and composed major avant-garde works.

It was not until 1988 that he helped found the Lithuanian independence movement "Sajudis" and then led it through the stormy politicking for a new parliament — and a new nation.

Until then Landsbergis' most notable political achievement was his expulsion from the Lithuanian Compos-

ers' Union in 1985. He was adjudged "radical," says **Emilija Sakadolskis** of the Lithuanian legation, after suggesting musicologists "bring their censored articles to the composers' union so they could read their colleagues' work" in full.

Landsbergis carries on a family tradition of revolt; his father battled Nazi soldiers in World War II, and one of his grandfathers was imprisoned for anti-tsarist writings.

Landsbergis shares his passion for music with his wife, **Grazina**, also a pianist, and their son, two daughters and three grandchildren. "He's the type of man who will not compromise," says Sakadolskis. "That was true in the field of music, and it will be true in this area, too."

— **Don Kirk**

► **War of nerves, 4A**